

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 PC-01 AID-05 NIC-01 /054 W

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O 192230Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2806

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJ: POSSIBLE GOP STATEMENT RE EXPELLING OF PEACE CORPS

1. FONMINISTRY PRESS OFFICER PAURA HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT GOP IS CONSIDERING TWO DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF A POSSIBLE STATEMENT EXPLAINING GOP REASONS FOR EXPELLING PEACE CORPS. FAURA INDICATED THAT FONMIN DE LA FLOR, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY PROMISED ME GOP WOULD CONSIDER ISSUING SUCH A STATEMENT, HAS TAKEN THE TWO DRAFTS TO TODAY'S CABINET MEETING FOR PRESIDENT VELASCO'S REVIEW (AND PRESUMABLY THAT OF OTHER CABINET MEMBERS AS WELL). PAURA SAID HE HOPES THAT GOP STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED TONIGHT AND APPEAR IN LOCAL PRESS TOMORROW (NOVEMBER 20).

2. I DUSCUSSED SUCH A STATEMENT WITH FONMIN DE LA FLOR, FONMINISTRY SEC GEN GARCIA BEDOYA AND FAURA IN A SERIE OF CONVERSATIONS LATE LAST WEEK, AND ALL AGREED THAT A GOP STATEMENT GIVING DUE RECOGNITION TO THE USEFUL PEACE CORPS CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LAST 12 YEARS WOULD BE IN ORDER. ALL THREE PROMISED ME THAT THEIR INTENTIONS THIS REGARD. WHETHER PRESIDENT VELASCO (AND THE CABINET) WILL GO ALONG WITH ONE OR ANOTHER OF FAURA'S DRAFTS REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

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3. IF FOR ANY REASON GOP DECIDES NOT TO ISSUE FORTH-COMING STATEMENT RE PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES I PLAN TO RELEASE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO LIMA MEDIA. THIS STATEMENT AVOIDS POLEMICS BUT WOULD NEVERTHELESS SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AS TO WHAT THE PEACE CORPS HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN PERU AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE 1962 PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN TERMINATED BY THE GOP. IT IS HOPED THAT IT WOULD REMOVE SOME OF THE STING OF RECENT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE PEACE CORPS IN PERU AND SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE IN REPLAY IN OTHER CITIES OF THE HEMISPHERE STATE FOLLOWS:

4. QUOTE. IN DIPLOMATIC NOTES SENT TO THE U.S. EMBASSY EARLY THIS MONTH, THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF PERU EXPRESSED ITS DECISION TO TERMINATE THE 1962 AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES PROVIDING FOR THE SERVICES IN PERU OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. IN THESE NOTES THE GOVERNMENT EXPLAINED THAT HENCEFORTH IT WOULD USE ITS OWN RESOURCES TO PERFORM THE DESIRED TASKS AND THEREFORE THE SERVICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS WOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY

THE NOTES ALSO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE SERVICES THAT THE U.S. VOLUNTEERS HAVE PROVIDED.

QUOTE. UNFORTUNATELY THERE HAVE BEEN UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS AND SPECULATION THAT U.S. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN POLITICAL OR INFORMATION-GATHERING ACTIVITIES OF AN INTELLIGENCE NATURE. SUCH ACTIVITIES WOULD HAVE VIOLATED THE BASIC PERU-US AGREEMENT AND THE LAWS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. THEY HAVE NOT OCCURRED.

QUOTE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ENTERED PERU PURSUANT TO THE BASIC 1962 AGREEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT SPECIFIC INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ACCORDS. THEIR ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE NATIONAL PLANNING INSTITUTE. THESE VOLUNTEERS HAVE WORKED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND ONLY IN THOSE PARTICULAR AREAS AND PROJECTS FOR WHICH THEIR SERVICES WERE REQUESTED BY THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT. THESE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC HEALTH, FORESTRY, FISHERIES, NUTRITION, ENGINEERING AND IRRIGATION. AT NO TIME DID PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS DEPART FROM THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSIGNMENTS AS AGREED TO BY THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES TO BECOME ENGAGED IN POLITICAL OR INFORMATION-GATHERING ACTIVITY. THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED IT. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN IT. NEITHER THE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR NOR I WOULD HAVE PERMITTED IT.

QUOTE IN GENERAL PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ARE DEDICATED SELF-SACRIFICING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE EARNED THE RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP AND

GRATITUTDE OF THE MANY PEOPLE WITH WHOM THEY HAV WORKED OR HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED. THEY HAVE MADE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION IN THOSE AREAS IN WHICH THEY WORKED. THEY HAVE COOPERATED IN THE ONGOING PROCESS OF ECONOMIC-SOCIAL CHANGE NOW UNDERWAY IN PERU. I BELIEVE THEY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTIRES. I AM CERTAIN THAT THE MANY HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO SERVE IN PERU ARE BETTER HUMAN BEINGS FOR THEIR EXPERIENCE AND WILL CARRY WITH THEM FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES A SENSE OF APPRECIATION AND DEEP FRIENDSHIP FOR THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE. UNQUOTE.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LIMA09784
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740334-1006
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741132/aaaabajq.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE GOP STATEMENT RE EXPELLING OF PEACE CORPS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PE, US, PC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005